IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellant	:	Ryo OZAWA	Confirmation No.: 1830
Appln. No.	:	09/726,558	Group Art Unit: 2621
Filed	:	December 1, 2000	Examiner: David J. CZEKAJ
For	:	ELECTRONIC ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM	

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

This appeal is from the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16, as set forth in the Official Action dated April 14, 2009. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16 have been at least twice rejected. A Notice of Appeal was filed on July 14, 2009, in response to the Official Action dated April 14, 2009. The two-month period for filing an Appeal Brief after the filing of the Notice of Appeal extends until September 14, 2009.

The requisite fee for filing an Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b)(2) is submitted herewith. However, if for any reason the necessary fee is not associated with this file or the fee as submitted is inadequate, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for the Appeal Brief and any necessary extension of time fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is HOYA CORPORATION. An assignment was recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 1, 2000, at Reel 011324 and Frame 0436, listing the assignee as ASAHI KOGAKU KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA. A Certificate of Corporate Resume showing the assignee's change of name from ASAHI KOGAKU KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA to PENTAX CORPORATION, and documentation showing the merger of PENTAX CORPORATION into HOYA CORPORATION, was recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 11, 2009, at Reel 023218 and Frame 0328.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant is not aware of any prior or pending appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which may be related to, directly affect, or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 5, 11 and 13-15 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Appellant appeals the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments to the claims were filed after the rejection of the claims provided in the Official Action dated April 14, 2009.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Initially, Appellant notes that the following descriptions are made with respect to the independent claims on appeal and include references to particular parts of the specification and the drawings. As such, the following descriptions are merely exemplary and are not a surrender of other aspects of the present invention that are also enabled by the present specification, as well as those descriptions that are directed to equivalent structures or methods.

Independent claim 1 is summarized as an electronic endoscope system (Fig. 1) including a scope (Fig. 1, item 10) having a solid state image sensor (Fig. 1, item 14) provided at a distal end thereof to generate image-pixel signals (Specification, page 8, lines 8-12 and 17-21; page 11, lines 4-12), an image-signal processing unit (Fig. 1, item 12) that produces a video signal based on the image-pixel signals (Specification, page 8, lines 10-12; page 12, lines 2-10), and a monitor (Fig. 1, item 38) for reproducing and displaying an endoscope-image in accordance with the video signal output from said image-signal processing unit (Specification, page 13, lines 8-12), said system comprising: a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on said monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene (Fig. 2) and a patient-data-list-display scene (Fig. 3) comprising character code data (Specification, page 12, line 2 – page 13, line 12; page 15, line 22- page 16, line 21); a storage system (Fig. 1, item 46) that stores patient data, said patient data comprising a patient data list which is displayed on said monitor when the scene on said monitor is changed from said endoscope-image-display scene to said patient-data-list-display scene by said scene-changing system (Specification, page 15, line 22 – page 16, line 25); a selection system that selects individual patient data from said patient data list displayed on said monitor (Specification, page 26, lines 19-24); a display-control system that displays said selected individual patient data together with the endoscope-image on said monitor when the scene on

said monitor is changed from said patient-data-list-display scene to said endoscope-image-display scene by said scene-changing system (Specification, page 15, lines 1-10; page 43, line 2 – page 44, line 7); and a timing controller (Fig. 1, item 48) that provides clock pulses to the image-signal processing unit (Specification, page 17, lines 8-14), the timing controller outputting a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when the endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on said monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable the image-signal processing unit to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor (Specification, page 19, line 22 – page 20, line 15; page 21, lines 11-25), wherein said selection system includes: an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from said patient data list; a manual operation system that controls the indication of the patient data to be selected from said patient data list; and a manual settlement system that manually settles the indication of the patient data to be selected from said patient data list (Specification, page 26, lines 12-24; page 39, lines 5-16; page 42, line 19 – page 44, line 7).

Independent claim 7 is summarized as an electronic endoscope system (Fig. 1) that produces a video signal and displays an endoscope-image in accordance with the video signal on a monitor (Fig. 1, item 38; Specification, page 12, line 2 – page 13, line 12), said system comprising: a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on said monitor between a first display mode and a second display mode, the second display mode comprising a patient-data-list-display scene comprising character code data (Specification, page 15, line 22- page 16, line 25); a storage system (Fig. 1, item 46) that stores patient data, said patient data comprising a

patient data list which is displayed on said monitor when the scene on said monitor is changed from said first display mode to said second display mode by said scene-changing system (Specification, page 15, line 22 – page 16, line 25); a selection system that selects individual patient data from said patient data list displayed on said monitor (Specification, page 26, lines 19-24); and a display-control system that displays said selected individual patient data together with the endoscope-image on said monitor when the scene on said monitor is changed from said second display mode, in which the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor, to said first display mode by said scene-changing system (Specification, page 13, line 23 – page 15, line 15; page 43, line 2 – page 44, line 7); a timing controller (Fig. 1, item 48) that provides clock pulses to the electronic endoscope system (Specification, page 17, lines 8-14), the timing controller outputting a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on said monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable an image-signal processing unit to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor (Specification, page 19, line 22 – page 20, line 15; page 21, lines 11-25), wherein said selection system includes: an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from said patient data list; an operation system that controls the indication of the patient data to be selected from said patient data list; and a selector that selects the indication of the patient data to be selected from said patient data list (Specification, page 26, lines 12-24; page 39, lines 5-16; page 42, line 19 – page 44, line 7).

Independent claim 16 is summarized as an image-signal processing unit (Fig. 1, item 12) of an electronic endoscope system which receives image-pixel signals from a scope (Fig. 1, item

10; Specification, page 11, lines 4-17) and outputs endoscope-image-display signals and patient-data-list-display signals to a monitor (Fig. 1, item 38; Specification, page 12, line 25 – page 13, line 12; page 15, line 22 – page 16, line 25), comprising: a scene-changing system that controls the image-signal processing unit to change between outputting an endoscope-image display signal to the monitor, and outputting a patient-data-list display signal comprising character code data to the monitor (Specification, page 15, line 22 – page 16, line 25); a processing system that processes signals to be outputted to the monitor (page 11, line 13 – page 13, line 12); and a timing controller (Fig. 1, item 48) that provides clock pulses to the processing system (Specification, page 17, lines 8-14), the timing controller outputting a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image display signal is outputted to the monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when a patient-data-list display signal is outputted to the monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable the processing system to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display signal is outputted to said monitor (Specification, page 19, line 22 – page 20, line 15; page 21, lines 11-25).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kanno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,566) in view of Nishikori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,584) and Tsuji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,258,834).

VII. ARGUMENT

For at least the reasons discussed below, Appellant respectfully requests that the Examiner's decision to reject claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. in view of Nishikori et al. and Tsuji et al. be reversed.

Independent Claim 1

A. The applied prior art fails to disclose or suggest "a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on said monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene".

In the Office Action of April 14, 2009, the Examiner asserts that this feature is suggested by the combined teachings of Kanno et al. and Nishikori et al. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Kanno et al. discloses a medical instrument interfacing apparatus. A third embodiment of the invention is shown in Figs. 14-18. See col. 14, lines 31-34 of Kanno et al. A first modification of the third embodiment is shown in Figs. 25-34. See col. 20, lines 3-4 of Kanno et al. This modification includes an image filing system 241 having an image reproducing apparatus 243. See Fig. 26 and col. 20, lines 5-9 of Kanno et al.

The image reproducing apparatus 243 includes a host computer 208 and a computer display 209. See, e.g., Fig. 25 and col. 20, lines 47-50 of Kanno et al. The host computer 208 includes a hard disc apparatus 215. See Fig. 29 and col. 22, lines 25-37 of Kanno et al. Fig. 30(a) shows the contents of a patient data list file which is stored in the hard disc apparatus 215. See col. 22, lines 50-54 of Kanno et al.

Fig. 32 of Kanno et al. illustrates a main menu which is displayed on the computer display 209. See col. 23, lines 30-31 of Kanno et al. Fig. 32 shows that menu options include image search and patient data management.

Appellant respectfully submits that Kanno's image filing system does not display a patient-data-list display scene on the computer display 209. Fig. 30(a) shows the contents of a patient data list file which is stored on the hard disc apparatus 215. However, Kanno et al. does not disclose that a list of the information in this file is displayed on the computer display 209. In contrast, Kanno et al. discloses that an operator retrieves patient data in a patient data management mode by inputting a patient ID, rather than by selection of a patient from a patient data list. See col. 25, lines 61-65 of Kanno et al.

Thus, as Kanno et al. does not disclose a monitor which displays a patient-data-list-display scene, Kanno et al. fails to suggest a scene-changing-system that changes a scene on a monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene.

Nishikori et al. discloses an endoscope system 1 which includes an operation computer 3 and a monitor 13. See Figs. 1 and 3; col. 5, lines 25-39; and col. 7, lines 13-23 of Nishikori et al. Figs. 15A-15J illustrate various screens which appear on the operation computer 3. See col. 10, lines 52-54 of Nishikori et al. The Examiner asserts that Figs. 15D, 15F, 15I and 15J illustrate a patient data list. See page 4 of the Office Action dated April 14, 2009.

Appellant submits that Nishikori et al. does not disclose that an endoscope image is displayed on the operation computer 3. Appellant notes that none of the screens shown in Figs. 15A-15J illustrate an endoscope image. Rather, Appellant submits that an endoscope image is only displayed on the monitor 13. See col.18, line 65 – col. 19, line 23 of Nishikori et al., which discloses that endoscopic images are displayed on a monitor 218.

Thus, as Nishikori et al. does not disclose a single monitor which displays both an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, Appellant submits that Nishikori et al. fails to suggest a scene-changing-system that changes a scene on a monitor

between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene. Accordingly, as neither Kanno et al. nor Nishikori et al. suggest a single monitor which displays both an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, Appellant respectfully submits that, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the combined teachings of these references do not teach a scene-changing-system that changes a scene on a monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene.

B. The applied prior art fails to disclose or suggest "a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the image-signal processing unit, the timing controller outputting a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when the endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on said monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable the image-signal processing unit to process a higher number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor".

In the Office Action of April 14, 2009, the Examiner asserts that Tsuji et al. suggests the timing controller recited in Appellant's claim 1. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Tsuji et al. discloses an electronic endoscope system 1 which includes an electronic endoscope 2 and a monitor 5. See Fig. 1 and col. 5, lines 39-43 of Tsuji et al. The electronic endoscope 2 includes a single-plate color chip CCD 13 and a sync signal generator (SSG) 18. See Fig. 2 and col. 5, line 67 – col. 6, line 11 of Tsuji et al. A 16 MHz fundamental clock of an oscillator 21 of the SSG 18 is used as a clock for driving a horizontal shift register for the CCD 13. See col. 6, lines 15-17 of Tsuji et al.

Tsuji et al. also discloses a second electronic endoscope system 1a which uses a monochromatic chip CCD, rather than a color chip CCD. See col. 6, lines 48-60 of Tsuji et al. The electronic endoscope system 1a includes an electronic endoscope 2a having a single-plate monochromatic chip CCD 13a. See Fig. 3 and col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 7 of Tsuji et al.

Tsuji et al. discloses that the electronic endoscope 2a uses a clock having a frequency of 19 MHz, which is 1.2 times higher than the 16 MHz frequency of the clock used in the electronic endoscope 2. See col. 8, lines 5-9 of Tsuji et al. Accordingly, data can be read from a register of the CCD more quickly. See col. 8, lines 19-28 of Tsuji et al.

In the Office Action of April 14, 2009, the Examiner cites col. 8, lines 5-18 of Tsuji et al. as disclosing a timing controller that outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency and a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency higher than the first frequency. Appellant respectfully disagrees. The electronic endoscope 2a illustrated in Fig. 3 which uses a clock having a frequency of 19 MHz is a different endoscope than the electronic endoscope 2 illustrated in Fig. 2 which uses a clock having a frequency of 16 MHz. In particular, the electronic endoscope 2 shown in Fig. 2 is an endoscope having a color chip CCD, and the electronic endoscope 2a shown in Fig. 3 is an endoscope having a monochrome chip CCD.

Further, Tsuji et al. fails to disclose or suggest that the 16 MHz frequency clock pulses are output when an endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on the monitor 5, and the 19 MHz frequency clock pulses are output when a patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor 5. In this regard, Tsuji et al. fails to even suggest that a patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor 5.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully that Tsuji et al. fails to suggest "a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the image-signal processing unit, the timing controller outputting a

first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when the endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on said monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable the image-signal processing unit to process a higher number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor".

As none of the applied prior art discloses a monitor which displays both a patient-data-list-display scene and an endoscope-image-display scene, Appellant respectfully submits that the applied prior art does not suggest a scene changing system that changes between such scenes, much less suggest a timing controller which outputs two different series of clock pulses having different frequencies based upon the scene which is displayed. Furthermore, as the features of the claimed inventions discussed above are not taught singularly, the combination of these features clearly would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

For at least these reasons, Appellant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 1 is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 7

A. The applied prior art fails to disclose or suggest "a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on said monitor between a first display mode and a second display mode, the second display mode comprising a patient-data-list-display scene" and "a display-control system that displays said selected individual patient data together with the endoscope-image on said monitor when the scene on said monitor is changed from said

second display mode, in which the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor, to said first display mode by said scene-changing system".

As discussed above, Kanno et al. does not disclose a monitor which displays a patient-data-list-display scene. Accordingly, Kanno et al. fails to suggest a scene-changing-system that changes a scene displayed on a monitor to a display mode comprising a patient-data-list-display scene.

Further, as discussed above, Nishikori et al. does not disclose a single monitor which displays both an endoscope-image and a patient-data-list-display scene, and thus, fails to suggest a display-control system that displays selected individual patient data together with an endoscope-image on a monitor when a scene on the monitor is changed from a second display mode in which a patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor to a first display mode by a scene-changing system.

Accordingly, as neither Kanno et al. nor Nishikori et al. suggest a single monitor which displays both an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, Appellant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of these references do not teach the claimed scene-changing system and display-control system.

B. The applied prior art fails to disclose or suggest "a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the electronic endoscope system, the timing controller outputting a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on said monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable an image-signal

processing unit to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor".

As discussed above, Tsuji et al. does not suggest that a patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor 5, much less suggest that the 16 MHz frequency clock pulses are output when an endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on the monitor 5, and the 19 MHz frequency clock pulses are output when a patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor 5.

Accordingly, Appellant submits that the combined teachings of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Tsuji et al. fail to suggest an electronic endoscope system having the scene-changing system, display-control system and timing controller recited in claim 7.

Independent Claim 16

A. The applied prior art fails to disclose or suggest "a scene-changing system that controls the image-signal processing unit to change between outputting an endoscope-image display signal to the monitor, and outputting a patient-data-list display signal comprising character code date to the monitor".

As discussed above, Kanno et al. does not disclose a monitor which displays a patient-data-list-display scene. Accordingly, Kanno et al. fails to suggest a scene-changing system that controls an image-signal processing unit to change between outputting an endoscope-image display to a monitor, and outputting a patient-data-list display signal to the monitor.

Further, as discussed above, Nishikori et al. does not disclose a single monitor which displays both an endoscope-image scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, and thus, fails to suggest a scene-changing system that controls an image-signal processing unit to change

between outputting an endoscope-image display to a monitor, and outputting a patient-data-list display signal to the monitor.

Accordingly, as neither Kanno et al. nor Nishikori et al. suggest a single monitor which displays both an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, Appellant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of these references do not teach the claimed scene-changing system.

B. The applied prior art fails to disclose or suggest "a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the processing system, the timing controller outputting a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display signal is outputted to the monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when a patient-data-list display scene is outputted to the monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable the processing system to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display signal is outputted to said monitor".

As discussed above, Tsuji et al. does not suggest that a patient-data-list-display signal is outputted to the monitor 5, much less suggest that the 16 MHz frequency clock pulses are output when an endoscope-image display signal is outputted to the monitor 5, and the 19 MHz frequency clock pulses are output when a patient-data-list display signal is outputted to the monitor 5.

In view of the above, Appellant submits that the combined teachings of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Tsuji et al. fail to suggest an image-signal processing unit having the scene-changing system and timing controller recited in claim16.

VIII. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth herein, Appellant submits that the inventions recited in claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in view of the teachings of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Tsuji et al. Thus, Appellant respectfully requests that the Examiner's decision to reject claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reversed.

If there are any questions regarding this application, any representative of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. An electronic endoscope system including a scope having a solid state image sensor provided at a distal end thereof to generate image-pixel signals, an image-signal processing unit that produces a video signal based on the image-pixel signals, and a monitor for reproducing and displaying an endoscope-image in accordance with the video signal output from said image-signal processing unit, said system comprising:

a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on said monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene comprising character code data;

a storage system that stores patient data, said patient data comprising a patient data list which is displayed on said monitor when the scene on said monitor is changed from said endoscope-image-display scene to said patient-data-list-display scene by said scene-changing system;

a selection system that selects individual patient data from said patient data list displayed on said monitor;

a display-control system that displays said selected individual patient data together with the endoscope-image on said monitor when the scene on said monitor is changed from said patient-data-list-display scene to said endoscope-image-display scene by said scene-changing system; and

a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the image-signal processing unit, the timing controller outputting a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when the endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on said monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on

said monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable the image-signal processing unit to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor,

wherein said selection system includes:

an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from said patient data list;

a manual operation system that controls the indication of the patient data to be selected from said patient data list; and

a manual settlement system that manually settles the indication of the patient data to be selected from said patient data list.

2. An electronic endoscope system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an editing system that edits the patient data, forming the patient data list, stored in said storage system.

3. An electronic endoscope system as set forth in claim 1, said image signal processing unit producing the video signal such that as much patient information as possible is included in said patient data list displayed on the monitor when the scene on said monitor is changed from said endoscope-image-display scene to said patient-data-list-display scene by said scene-changing system.

4. An electronic endoscope system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the timing controller outputs said first series of clock pulses in accordance with a number of image-pixel signals obtained from said image sensor.

6. An electronic endoscope system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said selection system further includes:

an editing system that edits the patient data, forming the patient data list, stored in said storage system; and

a determination system that determines whether editing of said patient data is performed by said editing system after an activation of said manual settlement system, the editing of said patient data being settled by an activation of said manual settlement system when the performance of the editing of said patient data is confirmed by said determination system.

7. An electronic endoscope system that produces a video signal and displays an endoscope-image in accordance with the video signal on a monitor, said system comprising:

a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on said monitor between a first display mode and a second display mode, the second display mode comprising a patient-data-list-display scene comprising character code data;

a storage system that stores patient data, said patient data comprising a patient data list which is displayed on said monitor when the scene on said monitor is changed from said first display mode to said second display mode by said scene-changing system;

a selection system that selects individual patient data from said patient data list displayed on said monitor; and

a display-control system that displays said selected individual patient data together with the endoscope-image on said monitor when the scene on said monitor is changed from said

second display mode, in which the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor, to said first display mode by said scene-changing system;

a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the electronic endoscope system, the timing controller outputting a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on said monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable an image-signal processing unit to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on said monitor,

wherein said selection system includes:

an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from said patient data list;

an operation system that controls the indication of the patient data to be selected from said patient data list; and

a selector that selects the indication of the patient data to be selected from said patient data list.

8. An electronic endoscope system as set forth in claim 7, further comprising an editing system that edits the patient data, forming the patient data list, stored in said storage system.

9. An electronic endoscope system as set forth in claim 7, wherein the video signal is configured such that as much patient information as possible is included in said patient data list

displayed on the monitor when the scene on the monitor is changed from said first mode to said patient-data-list-display scene by said scene-changing system.

10. An electronic endoscope system as set forth in claim 7,

wherein the timing controller outputs said first series of clock pulses in accordance with a number of image-pixel signals obtained from an image sensor of and endoscope.

12. An electronic endoscope system as set forth in claim 7, wherein said selection system further includes:

an editing system that edits the patient data, comprising the patient data list, stored in said storage system; and

a determiner that determines whether editing of said patient data is performed by said editing system after an activation of said selector, the editing of said patient data being selected by an activation of said selector when the performance of the editing of said patient data is confirmed by said determination system.

16. An image-signal processing unit of an electronic endoscope system which receives image-pixel signals from a scope and outputs endoscope-image-display signals and patient-data-list-display signals to a monitor, comprising:

a scene-changing system that controls the image-signal processing unit to change between outputting an endoscope-image display signal to the monitor, and outputting a patient-data-list display signal comprising character code data to the monitor;

a processing system that processes signals to be outputted to the monitor; and

a timing controller that provides clock pulses to the processing system, the timing controller outputting a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image display signal is outputted to the monitor, and outputting a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when a patient-data-list display signal is outputted to the monitor, the second frequency being higher than the first frequency in order to enable the processing system to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display signal is outputted to said monitor.

X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

XI. RELATED PROCEEDING APPENDIX

None.